

# MBRC NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 1

June, 1999

## Governor Appoints New MBRC Members

On January 19, 1999, Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Mary Wheeler-Jones to the Missouri Board for Respiratory Care to replace Vetta Sanders-Thompson. Ms. Jones is the Board's newest public member and is currently employed by the City of St. Louis Department of Human Services – St. Louis Area on Aging. She is employed as an Aging Specialist who develops, plans, coordinates, and monitors programs and activities within the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (SLAAA). Ms. Jones also serves as an advocate for elder care issues and collects, analyzes and provides information on senior citizen services and projects. Ms. Jones coordinates and provides training for staff and vendors and is responsible for a multitude of program and administrative duties.

Ms. Jones earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in the Administration of Justice from the University of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri. She serves as a Board Member on the Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (AADD) and is involved in a variety of other associations and affiliations including the Alzheimer's Minority Outreach Committee, the National Council on Aging, the Institute for Women in Public Life, the Women's Elderly Battered (WEB) Committee, and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A).

On March 25, 1999, Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Martha A. Gragg to the Missouri Board for Respiratory Care to replace Rosa Miller. Ms. Gragg is the Administrator at the Sullivan County Memorial Hospital in Milan, Missouri. Ms. Gragg fills the hospital administrator position on the Board. As the Chief Executive Officer and Administrator of Sullivan County Memorial Hospital, Ms. Gragg is responsible for directing, administering and coordinating all activities of the facility to carry out the objectives of the hospital in the provision of health care and improvement of community health status in a financially appropriate way. Ms. Gragg has full operational responsibilities for the facility, including the execution of policy formulated by the Board of Trustees in conjunction with medical staff and operational entities within the facility.

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#### **Governor**

The Honorable Mel Carnahan

#### **Department of Economic Development**

Joseph L. Driskill, Director

#### **Division of Professional Registration**

Randall J. Singer, Director

#### **Missouri Board for Respiratory Care**

Mark D. Jackson, M.P.A., R.R.T., Chairperson  
Columbia, Missouri

Dr. Thomas J. Hancock, Vice-Chairperson  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Katherine Tyler, R.R.T., Secretary  
Oak Grove, Missouri

Scott Wren, R.R.T., Member  
Jackson, Missouri

Rosemary Hogan, R.R.T., Member  
Columbia, Missouri

Martha Gragg, R.N., M.S.N., C.P.H.Q.  
Hospital Administrator Member  
Milan, Missouri

Mary Wheeler-Jones, Public Member  
St. Louis, Missouri

#### **Staff**

Sharlene Rimiller, Executive Director  
Jeanette Stuenkel, Program Assistant  
Becky Lueckenotte, Licensing Technician  
Patricia Owens, Licensing Technician

3605 Missouri Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1335  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 522-LUNG (5864)  
(573) 751-0735  
(800) 735-2966 ttd

URL: [www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/mbrc](http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/mbrc)  
[Rcp@mail.state.mo.us](mailto:Rcp@mail.state.mo.us)

## **MISSOURI**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Ms. Gragg earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Missouri, in 1981 and graduated Cum Laude. In 1992, she completed her Master of Science in Nursing with emphasis in administration at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Ms. Gragg holds Missouri and Kansas nursing licenses and is certified as a Professional in Healthcare Quality. She also held a certification for Excellence in Practice, Critical Care Nursing.

Ms. Gragg is involved in numerous professional and community organizations. Her involvement in professional organizations includes the Community Health Assessment Resource Team for Sullivan County and the tri-county region; the National Association for Healthcare Quality; Program Chairperson of the Missouri Association of Healthcare Quality; the American Association of Critical Care Nurses; Sigma Theta Tau, a professional nursing sorority; and she received the 1990 Quality Improvement Award from Humana Hospital in Overland Park, Kansas. Her community involvement includes the Truman State University Nursing School Advisory Council; Milan Rotary Club; Sullivan County Historical Society; 911; Milan C-II School; Chamber of Commerce; Daughters of American Revolution, General John Sullivan Chapter; Liberty Union Baptist Church and Sullivan County Country Club.

The Board welcomes our two newest members and congratulates them on their successes. The Board looks forward to the challenges facing this newly licensed profession and we believe that Ms. Jones and Ms. Gragg will contribute greatly to our mission.

## **Renewal and Continuing Education Questions Answered**

This is the first newsletter since the Board began issuing licenses last fall. The Board and its staff have received a variety of questions regarding renewal of the license and about the continuing education requirements for renewal. We hope to answer your questions in this newsletter and along the way provide some information that may help in this new process.

All licenses have been issued by the Board with an expiration date of July 31, 1999. We have received a number of questions about this expiration date, mainly in the form of complaints because the initial licensing period was less than one year. The Board does not set the renewal date. Renewal dates are established by rule by the Division of Professional Registration whose job is to renew the licenses of thirty-eight professional licensing boards, committees and commissions. The Division is responsible for renewing approximately 300,000 licenses of these thirty-eight agencies and has

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be assured that its licensing fees are set at a level to produce revenue that will cover the cost and expense of administering the provisions of the respiratory care practice act.

The new practice act was implemented on August 28, 1996. However, it was not until June 6, 1997 that all Board members were appointed and the Board could begin its responsibilities under the statutes. From August 28, 1996 and up until the time application fees started coming in last fall, the Board incurred the usual expenses of a licensing and regulatory agency. The Board had a coordinator and a licensing technician to manage the office at the Division of Professional Registration so there were salaries and office expenses to pay. Additionally, there were costs for attorney services from the Attorney General's Office and costs for the services provided by the Division of Professional Registration, such as accounting, budgeting, legislative, computer and computer support services. There was also some travel expenses for Board members to attend meetings. During that time, there was no revenue being generated to support these expenses. As a result, the Board accumulated some debt that must now be re-paid. So not only is the Board re-paying its past debt, but the Board must also plan for future expenses.

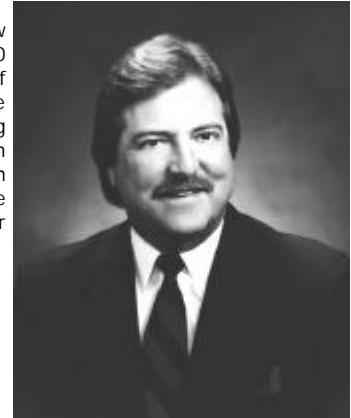
The Board estimates that it will cost approximately \$136,350 to repay the debt and cover expenses for this fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1999. At the end of the third quarter of fiscal year 1999, the Board had collected \$154,142 in revenue (primarily from new licensing fees) and it is estimated that an additional \$8,000 will be generated in revenue for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1999. If you calculate the revenue minus the expenses, it leaves a surplus of only \$25,792. This surplus must support the Board's expenses until renewal fees start coming in later this year. The \$50 renewal fee was set to cover expenses for the renewal period. If there are 2,000 licensed respiratory care practitioners that renew at the \$50 fee, this will generate approximately \$100,000 in revenue. After examining the costs for the past two years, the \$50 renewal fee would appear to be sufficient. However, now that the initial licensing period is nearly at completion, the Board will begin to focus its attention on the enforcement functions of administering the respiratory care practice act and these costs are very difficult to project. Please be assured that the Missouri Board for Respiratory Care is taking every precaution to keep expenses at a minimum.

## **A Letter from the Division Director**

Through team input and much planning, we started exploring the possibility of updating to a new, more efficient licensing system that will provide more user friendly interfaces and the ability to grow and adapt to new technology. I'm glad to report that we have awarded a contract to provide such a system. Our implementation is scheduled for later this month.

It was brought to our attention last year that our current licensing system would experience problems with the transition from the 1900s to the year 2000 – known to us as "Y2K". This causes incorrect results when the difference between dates is calculated and when dates are compared or sorted.

The backbone of the new system is already Year 2000 compliant and the final cost of the system is one-third of the cost to correct our existing system. We are very lucky, in affect, killing two birds with one stone. Therefore, the "Y2K" will not affect your regulator.



Warmest regards,

Randall Singer

Division Director

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Missouri Board for Respiratory Care is scheduled on Friday, July 30, 1999. The meeting will be held at the Division of Professional Registration, 3605 Missouri Boulevard, in Jefferson City, Missouri. Members of the profession and the public are welcome to attend the Board's open meeting. An agenda of the items to be discussed by the Board at its open meeting will be available approximately two weeks prior to the meeting date. Interested persons should contact the Board office prior to the meeting and request a copy of the agenda.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Singer".

